

# Public listening sessions

- Intent was to:
  - Inform public of Act, plan development
  - Listen:
    - Develop understanding of issues/ opportunities
    - Solicit input on plan goals
  - Develop list of interested parties

# Public listening sessions

- Issues

- Use of ocean resources for jobs/economic benefit (*commercial fishing, aquaculture, shipping, tourism*)
- Alternative energy (wind)
  - General support for identifying “appropriate” locations (*economic or environmental criteria, job creation, energy rates, geography*)
  - Local coordination, viewsheds, fishing/buffers, decommissioning, review streamlining
  - Tidal, wave (some)

# Public listening sessions

- Issues
  - Species/habitat management and protection
    - Special, sensitive, unique
    - Economically important
    - Fish, whales, birds
  - Habitat restoration for ecological diversity, recreational, and/or commercial purposes

# Public listening sessions

- Issues

- Related to plan process
  - Importance of public input
- Related to plan itself
  - Science-based, flexible to incorporate new data
  - Ecosystem-based
  - Regional approach
- Related to implementation
  - Performance standards
  - Funding
  - Future research

# Public listening sessions

- Summary of issues
  - Wind ↔ fishing, recreation, environment
  - Sand mining ↔ habitat
  - Supporting aquaculture/local fishing
  - How to address activities in federal waters
  - Shipping ↔ Recreation ↔ Habitat ↔ Safety
  - Ocean plan ↔ fisheries management
  - Incorporating new information

# Public listening sessions

<b>High Frequency</b> (raised 10+ times)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alternative energy – wind</li><li>• Jurisdictional coordination (local, state, and federal)</li><li>• Protection of unique, sensitive, or threatened species</li><li>• Protection of local fishing industry interests, fisheries</li><li>• Importance of continued citizen engagement and outreach</li><li>• Eco-system based approach</li><li>• Ocean as a public trust resource</li></ul>
<b>Medium Frequency</b> (raised 4-9 times)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sound science - approach</li><li>• Aquaculture</li><li>• Flexibility to incorporate data on an ongoing basis</li><li>• Shipping and transportation</li><li>• Beach erosion control and mitigation</li><li>• Recreational access and uses</li><li>• Job creation</li><li>• Biodiversity</li><li>• Viewsheds</li><li>• Research uses</li></ul>

# Stakeholder interviews

- Intent is to:
  - Inform groups of Act, plan development
  - Develop understanding of issues/  
opportunities
  - Solicit input on plan goals
  - Develop list of interested parties
  - Identify information/data for plan use

# Stakeholder interviews

Martha's Vineyard Commission

Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission

Massachusetts Harbormasters Association

Massachusetts Municipal Association

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

The Steamship Authority

Boston Harbor Cruises

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

USFWS--Monomoy, Mashpee, No Man's Land-MV, Nantucket  
Refuges

Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies

Salem Sound Coastwatch

Mass Ocean Coalition

Patriot Renewables

Mass Striped Bass Association

7 Seas Whale Watch

The Nature Conservancy

Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership

Northeast Marine Pilots

Cape Ann Whale Watch

Massachusetts Lobstermen Association

Coalition for Buzzards Bay

Martha's Vineyard Menemsha's Board of Selectmen

The Boston Harbor Association

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Nantucket Soundkeeper (Alliance)

Massachusetts Aquaculture Association

Save the Harbor - Save the Bay

The Whale Center of New England

U.S. Coast Guard

Safer Waters in Massachusetts

Cape Cod National Seashore

Massachusetts Port Authority

Massachusetts Boating and Yacht Clubs Association,  
Inc.

Mass Bay Ground Fishermen's Association

Northeast Gas Association

Excelerate Energy LLC.

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

Division of Marine Fisheries

Massachusetts Marine Trades Association

Minerals Management Services

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Fisheries Groups (North, South)

MIT/Sea Grant

ESS Group

Epsilon Associates

Durand Anastas

MA Surfrider Foundation

Cape Cod Commission

UMass Dartmouth/SMAST

Municipal Association Planning Commission

Northern Atlantic Dive Expeditions, Inc.

NOAA/NMFS

The Seaport Advisory Council

State of Rhode Island

Cape Cod Marine Trades Association

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

Boston University Marine Program

Nantucket fishermen

US Fish & Wildlife (Regional Fisheries  
Office)



# Stakeholder interviews

- Issues
  - Alternative energy siting
    - Define appropriate scale
  - Habitat protection (whales)
  - Commercial fishing, fisheries protection
  - Preservation of tourism, recreational uses
  - Navigation (*shipping, ferry routes*)
  - Cross-jurisdictional coordination

# Stakeholder interviews

- Plan issues
  - Base on reliable science
  - Apply ecosystem management principles to designate use areas
  - Allow integration of new science, data, technology
  - Long-term monitoring, including indicators of progress
  - Relate mitigation to affected uses

# Stakeholder interviews

- Plan issues (cont.)
  - Consider regional distinctions
  - Standardize review criteria and information/data required for wind projects
  - Link ocean management plan to other State statutory requirements
  - Continue public involvement
    - Web site, fact sheets, listserv, meetings, workshops, opportunities as plan is developed

# Stakeholder interviews

- Potential benefits from ocean management plan
  - Establishment of management principles
  - Balancing protection and development
  - Coordination of environmental regulations/management
  - Integrated state-federal waters management
  - Clarification of regulatory process
  - Address climate change
  - Development of new science and incorporation into management

....more to come